

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claims 1 to 5, 7, 9 and 10 and ADD claim 33, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A sheet supplying apparatus which supplies a sheet to be recorded by recording means, said apparatus comprising:

a first stacking portion for holding first sheets therein, said first stacking portion including a pressure plate on which the first sheets are stacked ~~that stacks sheets therein;~~

a second stacking portion for holding second ~~that stacks~~ sheets therein, said second stacking portion arranged detachable from and attachable to said first stacking portion, and said second stacking portion including a tray on which the second sheets are stacked and a base member for supporting the tray movable between a supplying position and a release position ~~base member for mounting to said first stacking portion and a tray arranged in a movable manner to the base member via a guide groove, for supporting a sheet as stacked; and~~

a supplying roller that supplies the first sheet held by ~~stacked on~~ said first stacking portion, or the ~~sheet stacked on said~~ second sheet held by ~~stacked on~~ said second stacking ~~stating~~ portion, ~~toward said recording means;~~

~~wherein when the tray moves upstream in a sheet supplying direction along the guide groove, said supplying roller is rotated in a first direction to supply the sheet stacked on said first stacking portion, while when the tray moves downstream in the sheet supplying direction along the guide groove, the supplying roller is rotated in the first direction to supply the sheet stacked on said second stacking portion~~

wherein when the tray is positioned at the release position, the pressure plate pushes up the first sheet held by said first stacking portion so that said supplying roller is able to supply the first sheet held by said first stacking portion, while when the tray is positioned at the supplying position, the pressure plate pushes up the tray so that the supplying roller can contact with the second sheet stacked on the tray to supply the second sheet stacked on the tray.

2. (Currently Amended) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when the tray moves to the supplying position ~~downstream~~, said second stacking portion is locked so that said second stacking portion can not be released from said first stacking portion, and

when the tray moves to the release position ~~upstream~~, said second stacking portion is detachable/attachable from and to the first stacking portion.

3. (Currently Amended) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said second stacking portion includes a blocking lever capable of abutting on and separating from an end portion of [[a]] the second sheet on the downstream side in the supplying direction so as to block a sheet supplying route to said supplying roller from said second stacking portion.

4. (Currently Amended) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said blocking lever abuts on the end portion of [[a]] the second sheet on the downstream side in the supplying direction when the tray is positioned at the release position, and the

blocking lever ~~moves upstream~~, separates from the end portion of a sheet on the downstream side in the supplying direction when the tray moves to the supplying position ~~downstream~~, and opens a sheet supplying route to said supplying roller from said second stacking portion when a sheet on said second stacking portion is supplied by said supplying roller.

5. (Currently Amended) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 4, wherein when the tray moves to the supplying position ~~downstream~~, an abutting portion of said blocking lever, which abuts on the end portion of a sheet on the second sheet on the downstream side in the supplying direction, separates from an abutting portion of said first stacking portion, which abuts on the end portion of ~~[[a]]~~ the first sheet on the downstream side in the supplying direction, and

when said supplying roller supplies the second sheet on said second stacking portion, an operation of said blocking lever is regulated by a regulating portion provided on said first stacking portion, thereby opening the sheet supplying route from said second stacking portion.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the abutting portion of said blocking lever, which abuts on the end portion of ~~[[a]]~~ the second sheet on the downstream side in the supplying direction, includes a guide member for guiding respectively upper and lower sides, in the sheet stacking direction, of a sheet stacked on

said second stacking portion when the tray moves to the release position upstream, towards the inside of the abutting portion of said blocking lever.

8. (Previously Presented) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said guide member is configured in a shape protruding on the upstream side at least in the sheet supplying direction at the upper and lower portions, in the sheet stacking direction, of the abutting portion of said blocking lever.

9. (Currently Amended) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said base member of said second stacking portion includes a cover member for covering the surface of a sheet stacked on said second stacking portion when the tray moves to the release position upstream, and

said cover member serves as regulating means for regulating the upper side of a sheet in the sheet stacking direction within an abutting range on the abutting portion of said blocking lever.

10. (Currently Amended) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said cover member separates from said second stacking portion when the tray moves to the supplying position downstream.

11. (Previously Presented) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said second stacking portion includes a regulating member for regulating the lower side of the sheet in the sheet stacking direction, and

said regulating member is provided in the vicinity of said blocking lever and is overlapped with said guide member of said blocking lever in the sheet supplying direction.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a sheet type discriminating sensor for discriminating a type of sheet stacked in said first stacking portion or said second stacking portion, and a position detecting sensor for detecting a position of said second stacking portion, wherein

the sheet supplied is identified based on a discrimination result by said discriminating sensor and a detection result by said position detecting sensor.

14. (Previously Presented) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said base member of said second stacking portion is provided with an index at a portion in which the end portion of the sheet is positioned when stacking a sheet on said first stacking portion.

15-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said second stacking portion is provided with a cover member that opens and closes when taking the sheet in and out and a sub cover member interlocking with the opening/closing of said cover member, on the upstream side of said second stacking portion in the sheet supplying direction.

19-32. (Cancelled)

33. (New) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when the tray is positioned at the supplying position, the pressure plate pushes up the tray together with the first sheet stacked on the pressure plate.